

THE
SPECTACULAR
SPIDERMAN®

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

35¢ 20
© 02199

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

**DEATH WAITS--
IN
LIGHTMASTER'S
LAIR!**



©1978 MARVEL COMICS GROUP



ERNIE
CHAN
1978

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee
Presents

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE
LIGHTS
WENT
OUT?

QUESTION: WHAT'S
THE BEST WAY TO
COME DOWN WITH
PNEUMONIA?

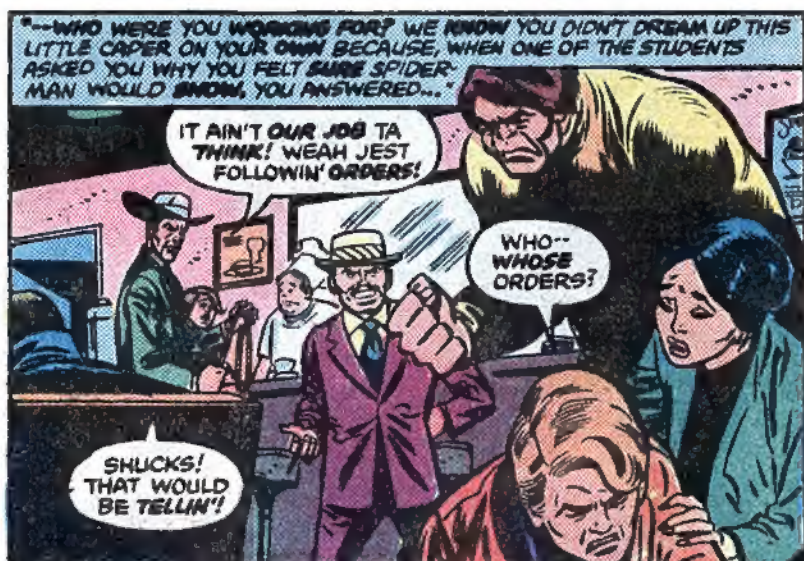
ANSWER: BY HANGING
AROUND ALL NIGHT ABOVE
THE METROPOLITAN
POLICE STATION WHILE
IT'S RAINING!

STILL, I'M THE
ONLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-
SLINGER AROUND; HOW
ELSE AM I GOING TO EAVES-
DROP ON NEW YORK'S FINEST
AS THEY PUMP THE INFOR-
MATION I NEED OUT OF
THE GUNFORCERS?

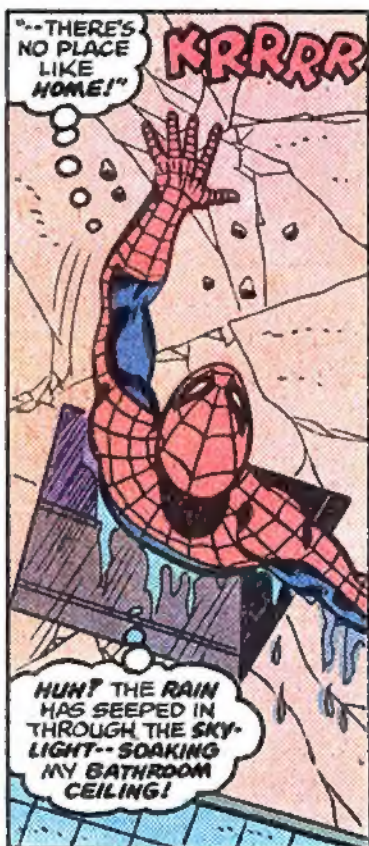
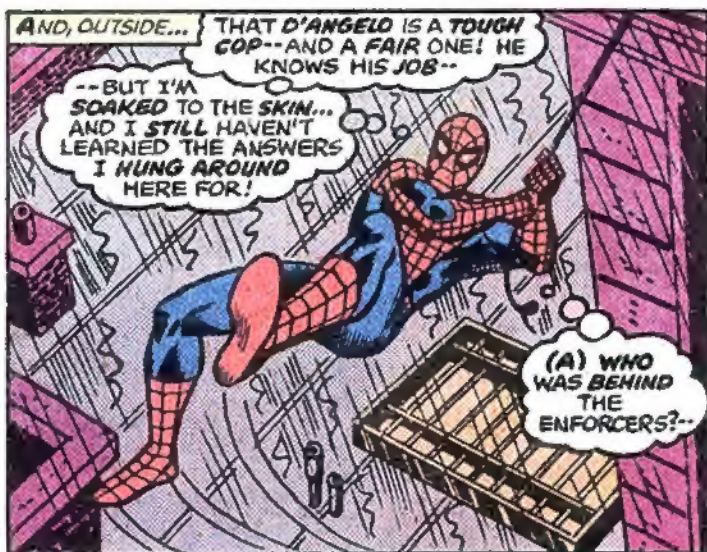
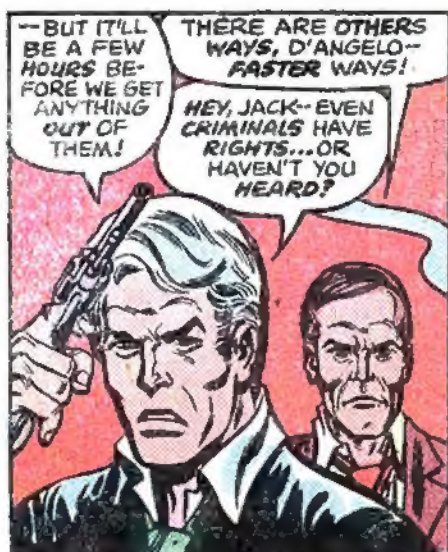
ALL RIGHT,
MONTANA, THIS IS
LT. D'ANGELO SPEAK-
ING. LET'S TRY YOUR
STORY AGAIN... FROM
THE TOP!

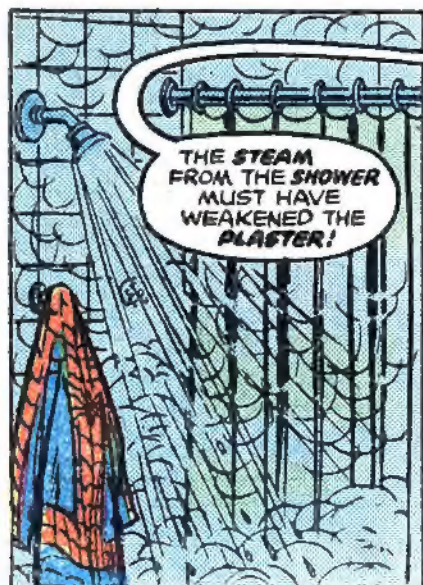
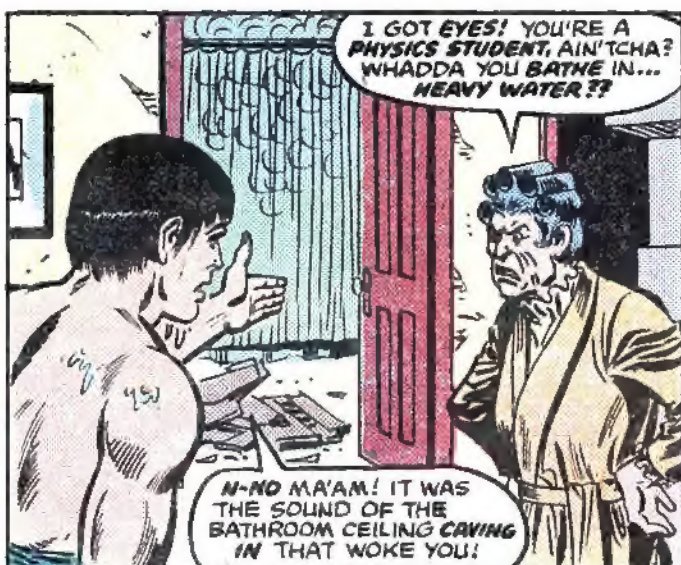
STORY:
BIL MANTLO,
SAL BUSCEMA
& MIKE ESPOSITO
ART:
I. WATANABE,
LETTERER:
DON WARFIELD
COLORIST:
JIM SHOOTER,
EDITOR.

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN® is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Garlon, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published monthly. Copyright ©1978 by Marvel Comics Group, A Division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Vol. 1, No. 20, July, 1978 issue. Price 35¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$4.50 for 12 issues. Canada, \$6.50. Foreign, \$6.50. Reprint courtesy of Magazine Management Co., Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Application for second class postage pending at New York and additional mailing offices.



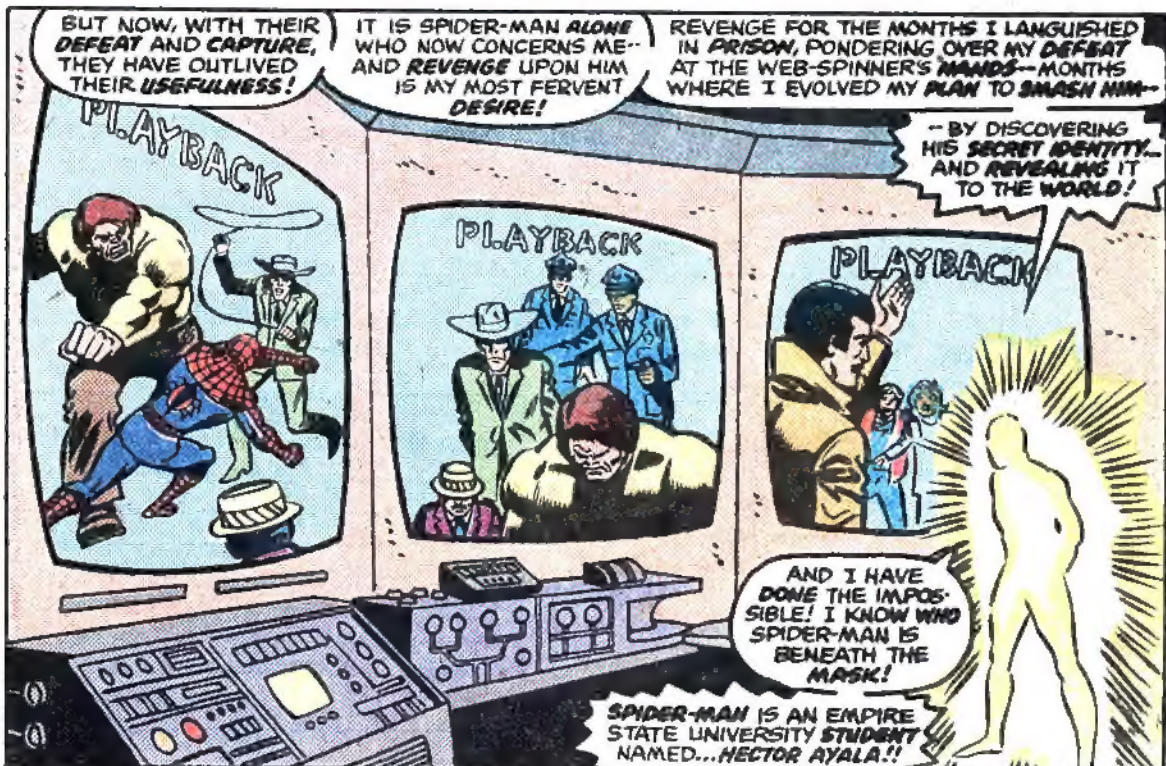
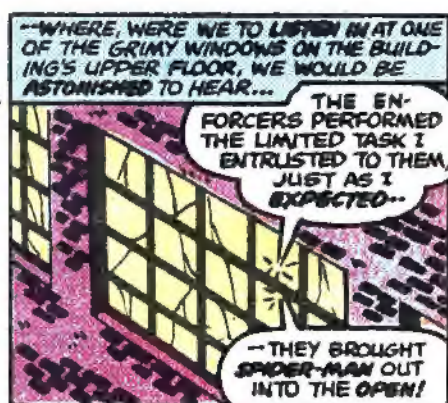
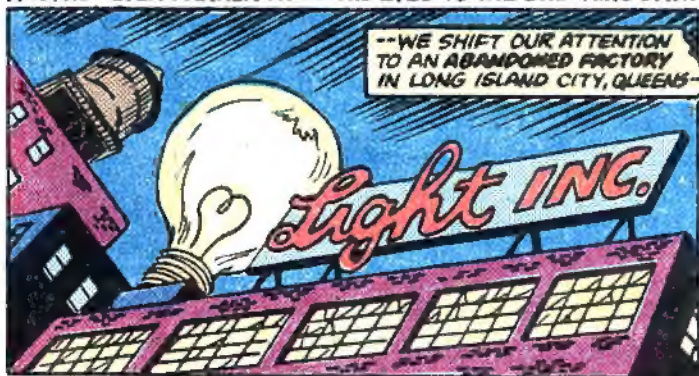








AND, AS PETER PARKER SHUTS HIS EYES TO THE BREAKING DAY...



AND, ONCE I HAVE EXPOSED WHO HE REALLY IS--

--THERE WILL BE NO PLACE WHERE HE WILL BE SAFE! PETTY CRIMINALS WILL HUNT HIM DOWN THROUGH HIS FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES!

IT WAS WEEKS AFTER MY DEFEAT BEFORE THE CHANGE BEGAN--BUT THEN, MY VERY ATOMS BEGAN TO SCATTER FROM ME! I MUST SURROUND MYSELF WITH LIGHT AT ALL TIMES MERELY TO STAY ALIVE!

AND IT IS YOUR FAULT, SPIDER-MAN!

HE WILL SUFFER AS I-- EDWARD LANSKY, WHO ONCE WAS VICE-CHANCELLOR OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY --AS I HAVE SUFFERED SINCE THE ACCIDENT BY WHICH HE DEFEATED ME!

THAT ACCIDENT TURNED **LIGHTMASTER** INTO A BEING OF PURE, UNSTABLE ENERGY AND THAT IS WHO I AM NOW, **LIGHTMASTER**--THAT ACCIDENT ENDED MY LIFE AS EDWARD LANSKY

YOURS!

RAVING MANIACALLY, **LIGHTMASTER** STREAKS TOWARDS MANHATTAN--

#PTSS #3--JIM.

--WHERE WE CATCH UP WITH SOMEWHAT PUNCHY PETER PARKER, ALREADY LATE FOR CLASS...

HEY, PETE--HI, C'MERE--THERE'S SOME FOLKS I WANT YOU TO MEET!

AHH-CHOO!

OTAY, FLASH --BUD I CAN ONLY SPARE A MINNUT!

GOT A COLD, HUH?

YEAH--FROM WEARING A DAMP SPIDEY-SUIT UNDER MY CLOTHES!

THIS IS **VECTOR AYALA**--A NIGHT SCHOOL STUDENT--AND **HOLLY GILLS** FROM THE ART SCHOOL!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, SENOR.

HMMM! ME, TOO!

AYALA'S THE KID WHO STAYED IN THE COFFEE BEAN DURING MY FIGHT WITH THE ENFORCERS!

*LAST IDN--JIM.

DON'T WE KNOW EACH OTHER, AMIGO?

NO, I DON'T THINK--WAIT! SURE--WE MET AT THAT DEMONSTRATION OVER THE CLOSING OF THE NIGHT SCHOOL!

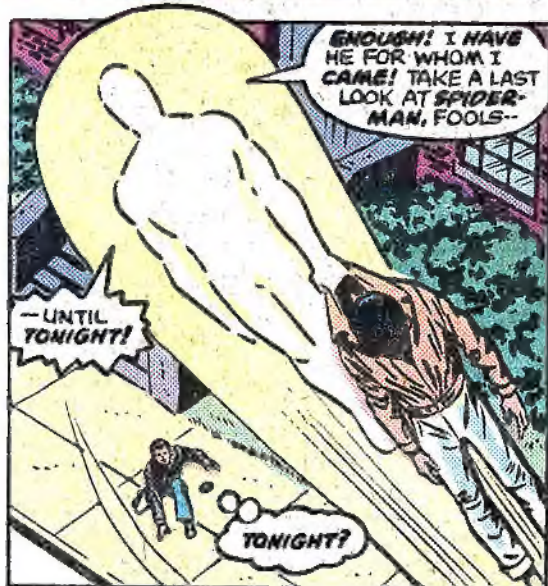
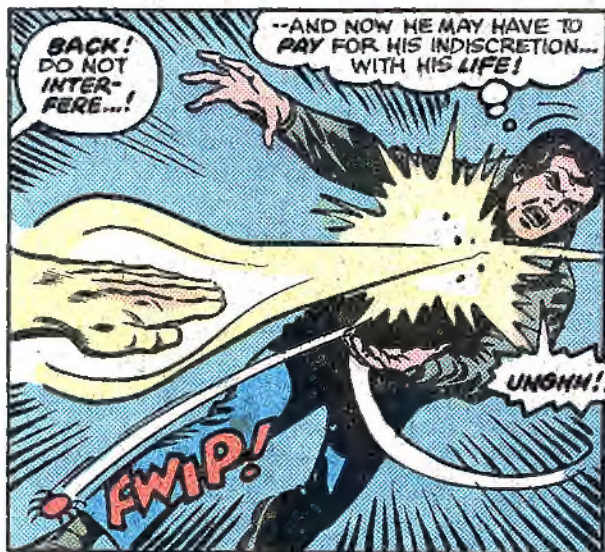
*PTSS #9--JIM.

FLASH AND HIS GIRL FRIEND **SHA SHAN** HAVE TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU, PETE!

ALL ABOUT ME, HOLLY?

WELL, WHAT THEY LEFT OUT--YOU CAN FILL ME IN OVER A SLOW CUP OF COFFEE!







--A-AND I DON'T WANT TO CARE ABOUT HIM... B-BUT I DO!



THAT FIGURES! THE PLAY SHE MADE FOR ME WAS JUST MEANT TO MAKE HECTOR JEALOUS! POOR KID-- SHE'S TURN UP ABOUT IT NOW!

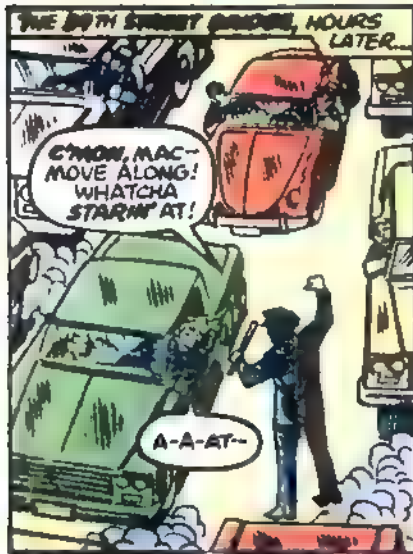
I'LL TAKE HER TO SHA SHAN'S PLACE, PETE! YOU CALL THE COPS!

H-HERE-- GIVE THEM THESE! THEY BELONG TO HECTOR!

HUH? ANULETS?



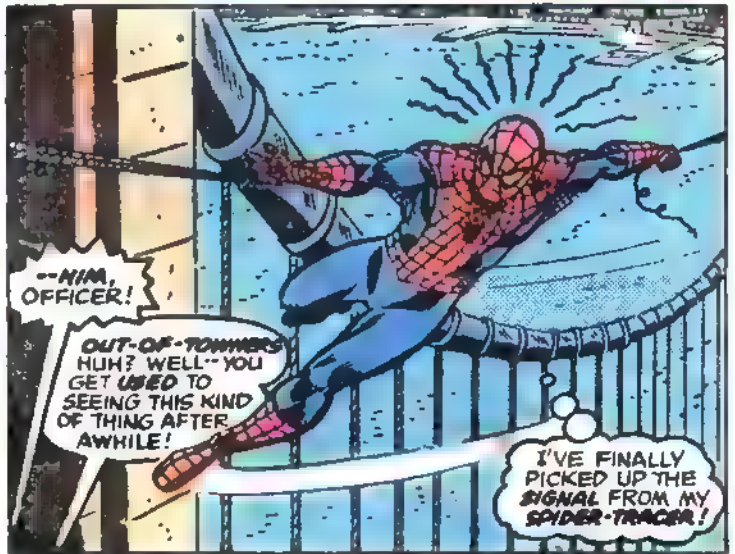
HOLY SMOKES! I-- I KNOW WHAT THESE ARE!!



THE 89TH STREET BRIDGE, HOURS LATER...

C'MON, MAC-- MOVE ALONG! WHATCHA STARRIN' AT!

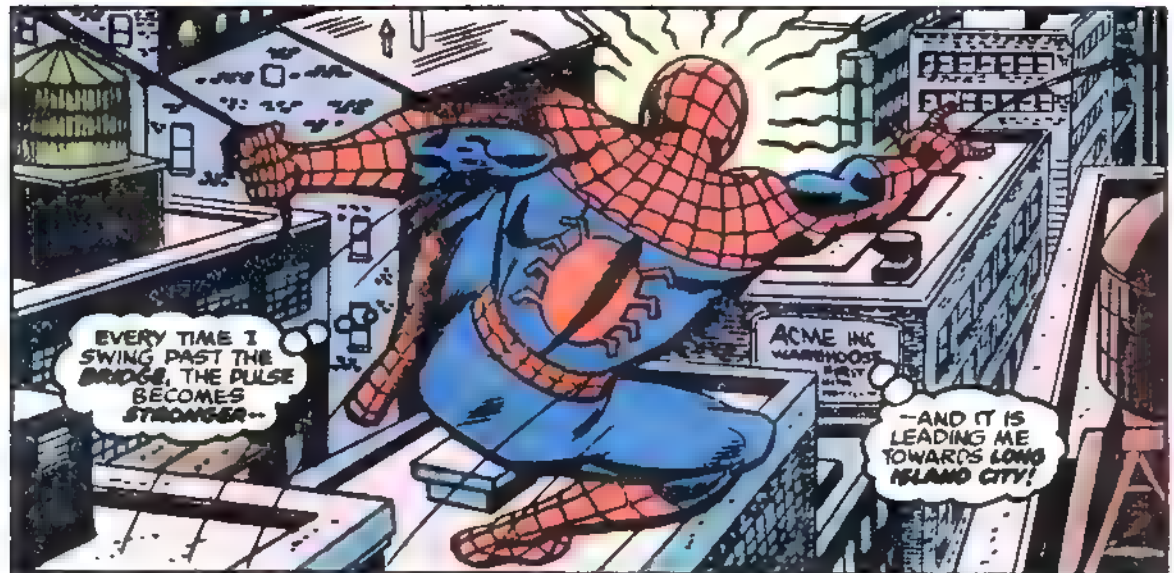
A-A-AT--



--HIM, OFFICER!

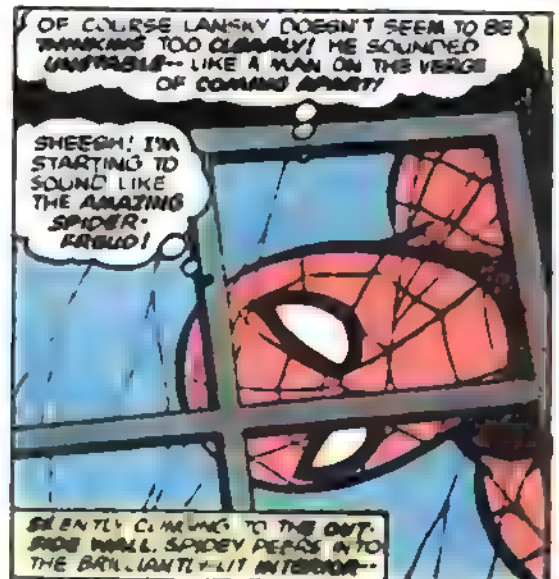
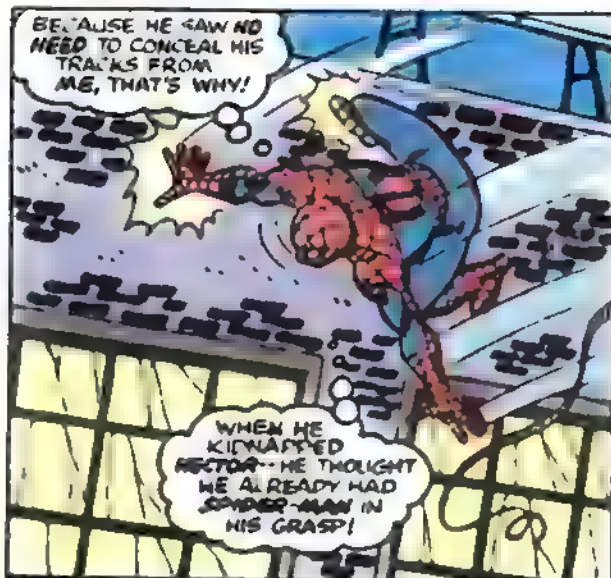
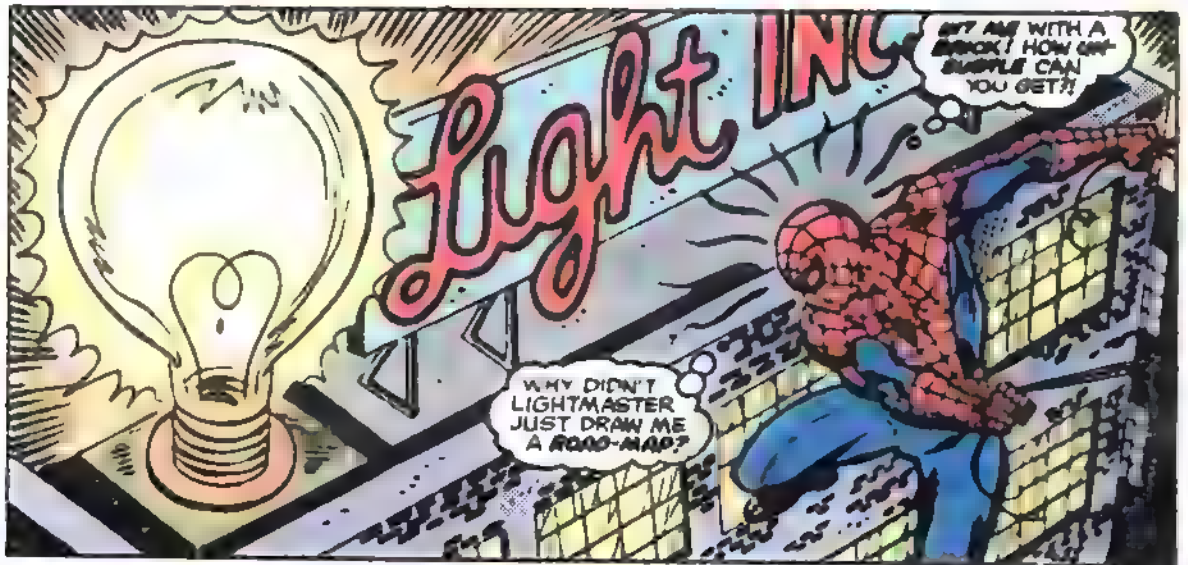
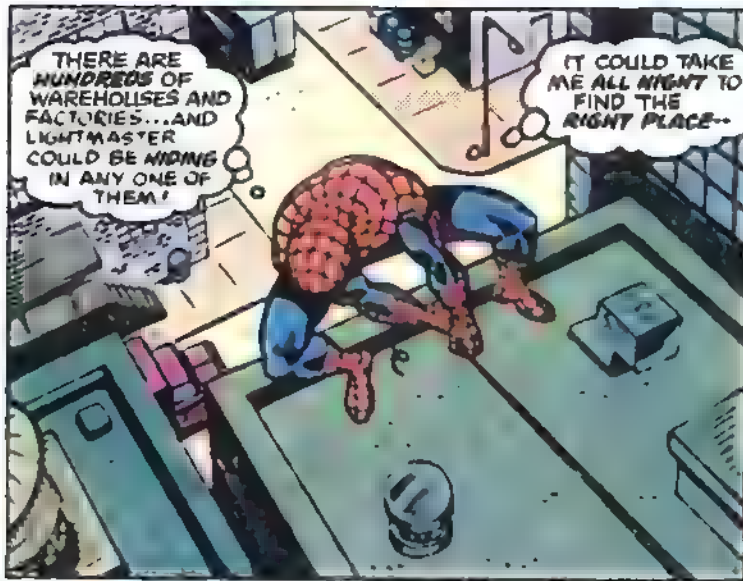
OUT-OF-TOWNERS! HUH? WELL-- YOU GET USED TO SEEING THIS KIND OF THING AFTER AWHILE!

I'VE FINALLY PICKED UP THE SIGNAL FROM MY SPIDER-TRACER!

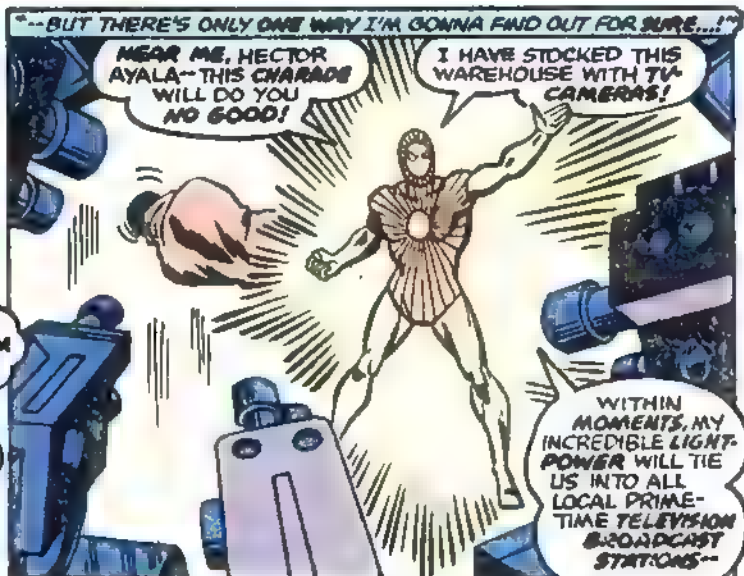
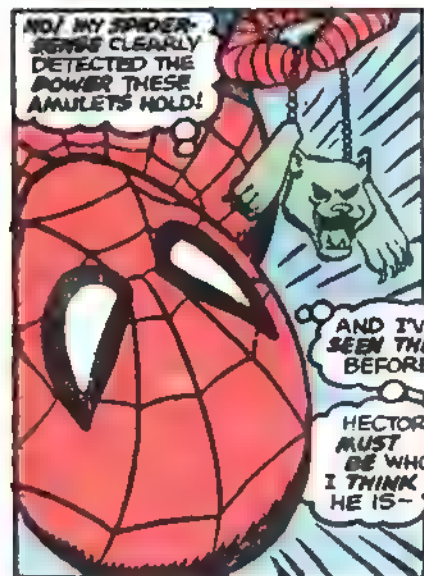
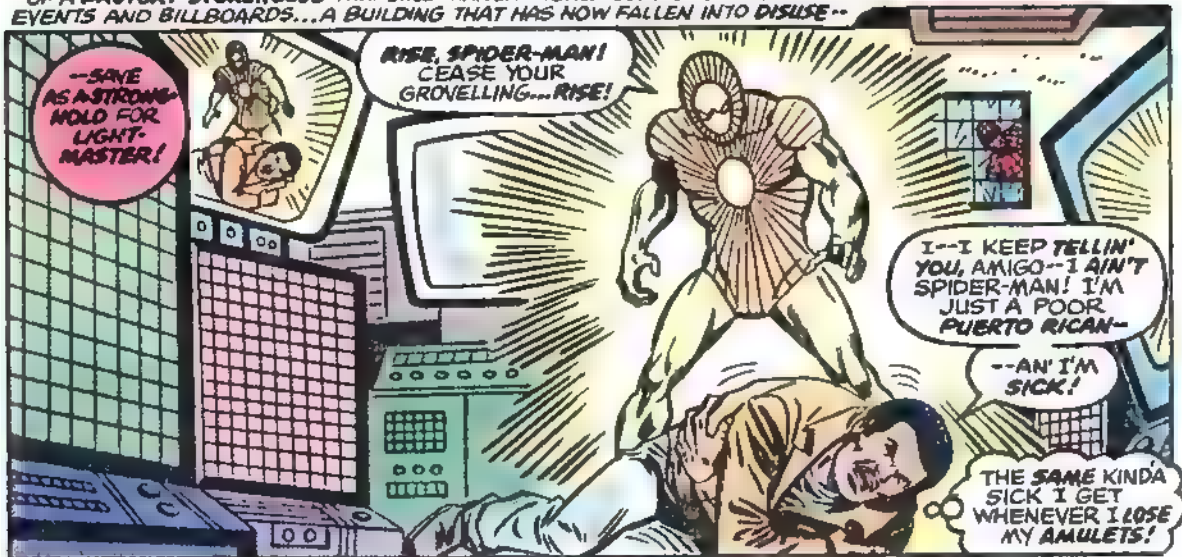


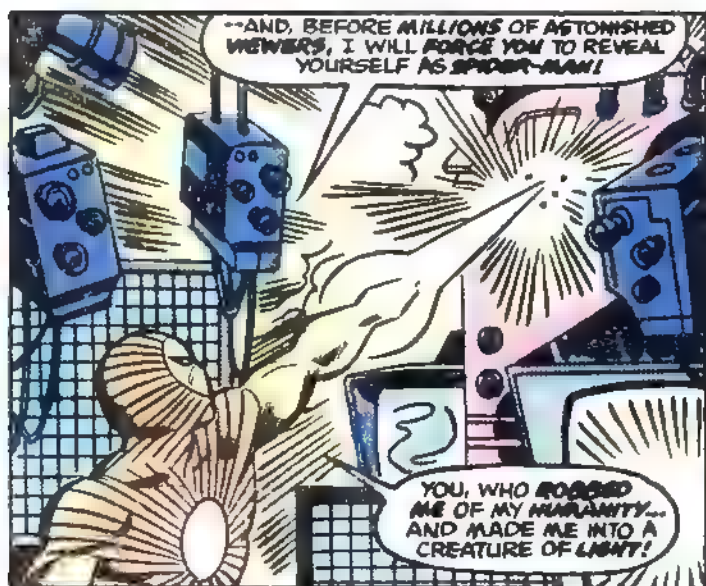
EVERY TIME I SWING PAST THE BRIDGE, THE PULSE BECOMES STRONGER--

--AND IT IS LEADING ME TOWARDS LONG ISLAND CITY!

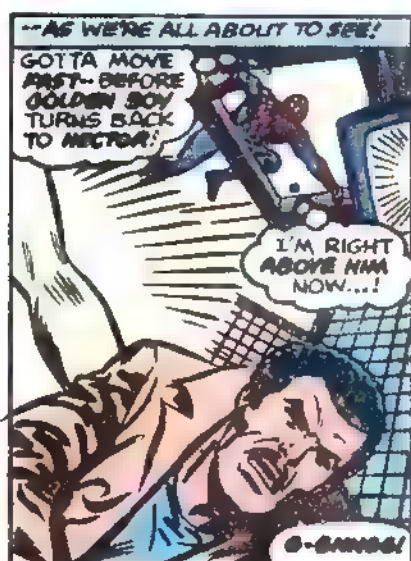
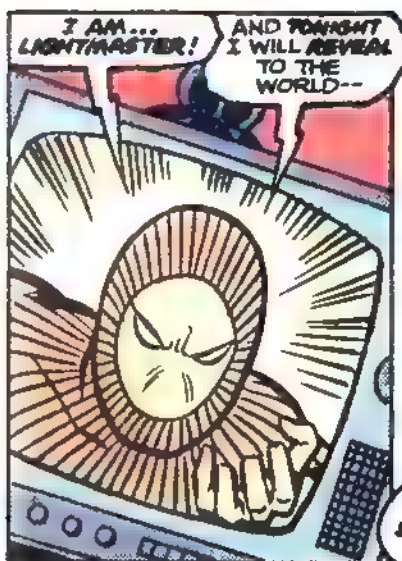


--OF A FACTORY STOREHOUSE THAT ONCE MANUFACTURED COMPUTER-LIGHT DISPLAY BOARDS FOR SPORTS EVENTS AND BILLBOARDS...A BUILDING THAT HAS NOW FALLEN INTO DISUSE--

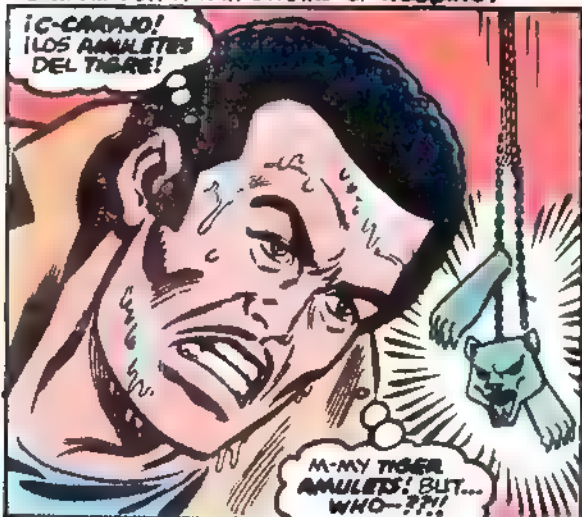




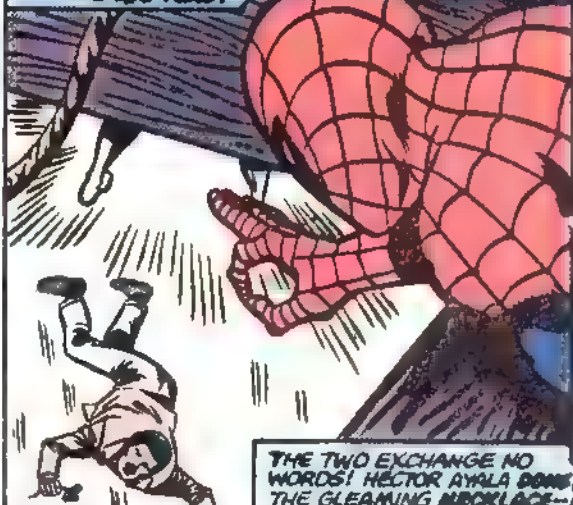
AND, IN SHA SHAN'S APARTMENT ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE...



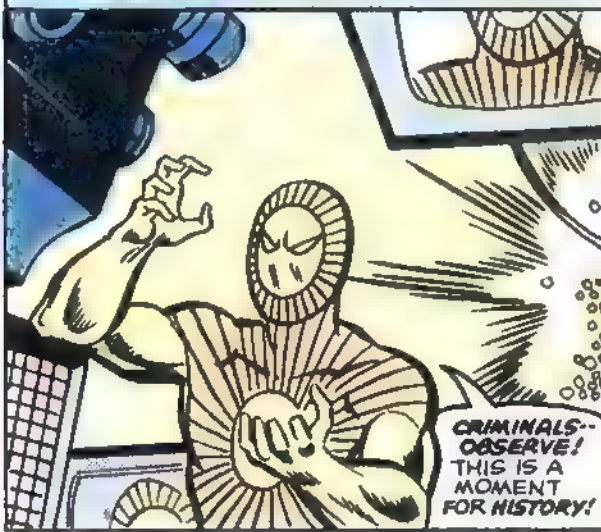
SUDDENLY, AS HECTOR AYALA RAISES HIS FEVERISH EYES, THREE GLOWING PENDANTS ARE LOWERED BEFORE HIM ON A THIN STRAND OF WEDDING!



BLANCING UP THE YOUNG HISPANIC SPY HIS SAVOR CLINGING TO THE BATTERS!

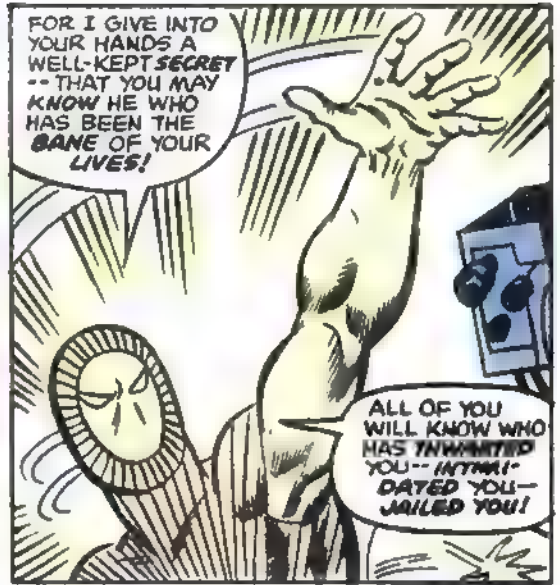


—AND, BEHIND THE RAVING LIGHTMASTER, THERE IS A BURST OF BRILLIANCE THAT RIVALS HIS OWN!



CRIMINALS--
OBSERVE!
THIS IS A
MOMENT
FOR HISTORY!

FOR I GIVE INTO
YOUR HANDS A
WELL-KEPT SECRET
-- THAT YOU MAY
KNOW HE WHO
HAS BEEN THE
BANE OF YOUR
LIVES!



ALL OF YOU
WILL KNOW WHO
HAS THWARTED
YOU-- INTRU-
DATED YOU--
JAILED YOU!

I GIVE YOU A NON-ENTITY
NAMED... HECTOR AYALA!
FOR IT IS HE WHO IS BETTER
KNOWN TO YOU AS THE AC-
CURSED, WALL-CRAWLING--



--SPIDER-MAN...?!

I TOLD YOU YOU
WERE MAKING A
MISTAKE, SEÑOR!



HECTOR
AYALA IS
NOT SPIDER-
MAN!

HE IS...THE
WHITE
TIGER!!

NO! IT--
IT CAN'T
BE!



BUT IT IS HOLLY!
LIGHTMASTER
DID UNMASK A
SUPER-HERO... ONLY
THING IS, IT WAS
THE WRONG ONE!

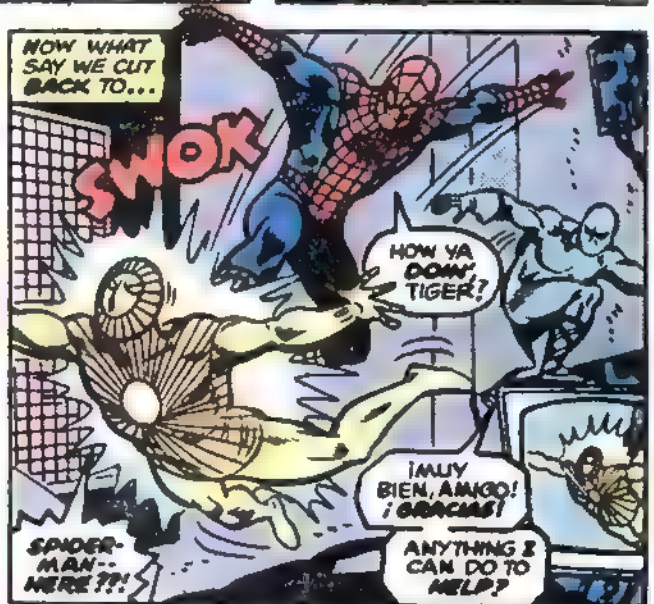
THEN--THEN HECTOR DE-
CEIVED ME! HE LED ME TO
BELIEVE HE WAS IN DANGER,
WHEN ALL ALONG...!

I-- I HATE HIM!
I NEVER WANT
TO SEE HIM
AGAIN!



SO MUCH FOR THE CONSISTENCY
OF HOLLY JACKSON!

NOW WHAT
SAY WE CUT
BACK TO...



HOW YA
DOWN
TIGER?

¡MUY
BIEN, AMIGO!
¡GRACIAS!

SPIDER-
MAN--
HERE ??

ANYTHING I
CAN DO TO
HELP?

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

96 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. NYC. 10022
Dear Marvel,

Along with being a rather superb effort, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #16 brought with it a dramatic spark of reality. In today's comics naturally it is the super-hero that sells the book, but there are enough real heroes who never get enough exposure: the policeman, for instance. These people, in your mags, usually resent the help they receive from super-heroes, possibly because they feel it reflects upon them that costumed characters can do a better job of enforcing the law than they can. Maybe they're afraid that the public will lose all respect for them and rely on Spider-Man or others to save them. But, do all policemen hate super-heroes? Certainly not! A name that pops immediately to mind is Captain Jean DeWolff (who first appeared in MARVEL TEAM-UP and, most recently, in IRON MAN). Another is Detective Joe Macone (in the DEFENDERS). They know there are villains that are far too powerful for them to handle and appreciate the helping hand of super-heroes. Before I ramble on out of control, I think I'll come to my point: We need policemen in comics; as supporting characters who are friends to the heroes in your mags, and to provide an element of realism. Your mags, I must admit, are usually chock-full of realism...but a little more couldn't hurt.

As for the story itself: It was a winner! Elliot Maggin has long been one of my favorite writers, and his work for your Distinguished Competition has long been amongst my favorite examples of comic writing. If he's come to work for Marvel, we're truly in for some fantastic writing. He handled Spidey and the cast as if he'd been with them from the beginning; I especially enjoyed the true-grit realism he brought to bear upon the family life of Officer Joe Macone.

There was a problem with the Beetle, though: A villain as powerful and as cunning as he certainly isn't going to be hurt by the loss of a million dollars. I know that's an awful lot of money, but someone like him should be able to make off with that much in a week. I'm not saying that all villains ought to be powerful enough to pose a threat to the world, but many, like the Beetle, seem capable of getting what they want.

The art continues to live up to your normally excellent standards. Sal Buscema and Mike Esposito are masters of their craft. They portray Spider-Man as he should be portrayed, nothing fancy or experimental, just exciting action and dynamic

art. As I said in the beginning, PPTSS #16 was a rather superb effort.

Peter Petruski
No. Center Street
Millerton, NY 12466

Look forward to seeing Captain DeWolff (as well as Joe Macone and the ever-exciting Blackbyrd) in future issues of PPTSS, Pete. As for your question about villains: If they were as able as you'd seem to like to see them, fella, where would that leave our hard-at-work heroes? Don't they already have enough to worry about without having added to that, say, a supremely confident Beetle possessed of a mere million dollars (with which, we assume, our plunger-possessed malefactor would build a crime organization the likes of which should only exist in your nightmares or beef-up his powers to the Nth degree)? No, friend Petruski, we don't believe in stacking the deck that much in favor of the bad guys. (If we did, next issue's masthead would read: ABNER JENKINS, THE SPECTACULAR BEETLE-MAN! and you wouldn't want that, would you?)

Dear Marvel,

I'd like to congratulate you on what had to be the worst issue of the year. PPTSS #16 was, to be charitable, the pits. Was it supposed to be a fill-in? What happened to Archie Goodwin? Or Bill Mantlo? I don't like the idea of Spidey fighting nowhere foes. I'm disappointed in you, truly!

(unsigned)

Like somebody somewhere once said: "You can please all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time...but when it comes to True Believers, watch out!" (Was it you who said that, Stan?)

Dear People,

It's no-prize time! In PPTSS #16 (page 15, panel 1) the Beetle pulls out a second-story window with his feelers. But (on Page 11, panel 4) the Chief's voice comes out a first-floor window! Then, (on Page 15, panel 5) the Beetle breaks through a wall on the same floor. (Complicated, ain't it?)

The art, inking, lettering, etcetera, were great, amazing, and wonderful, etcetera. And let's see more of Officer Joey Macone—he's great!

Like Stan says: Excelsior!

Peter Stone
11 Valley Place
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Now we know he said that! (And one no-prize is on its way, Pete!)

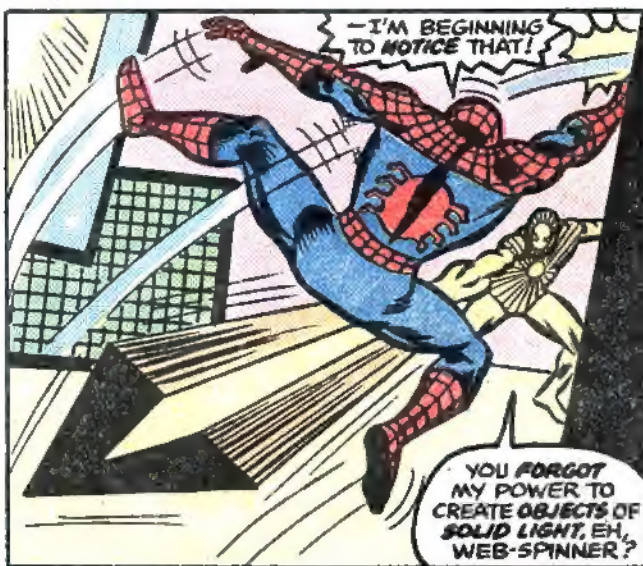
AND NOW THE... BEATLES!

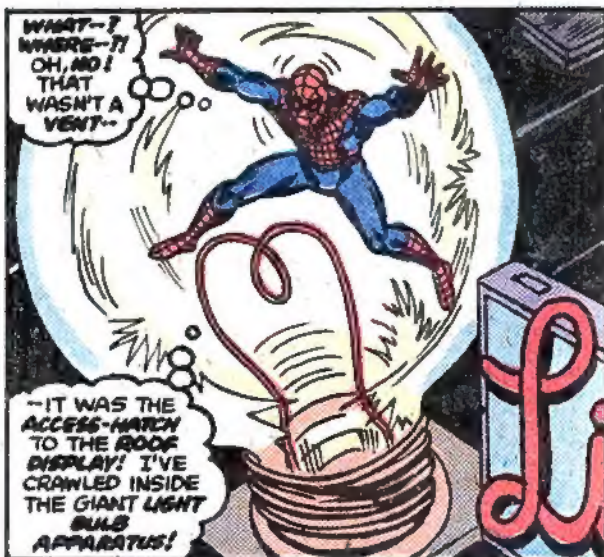
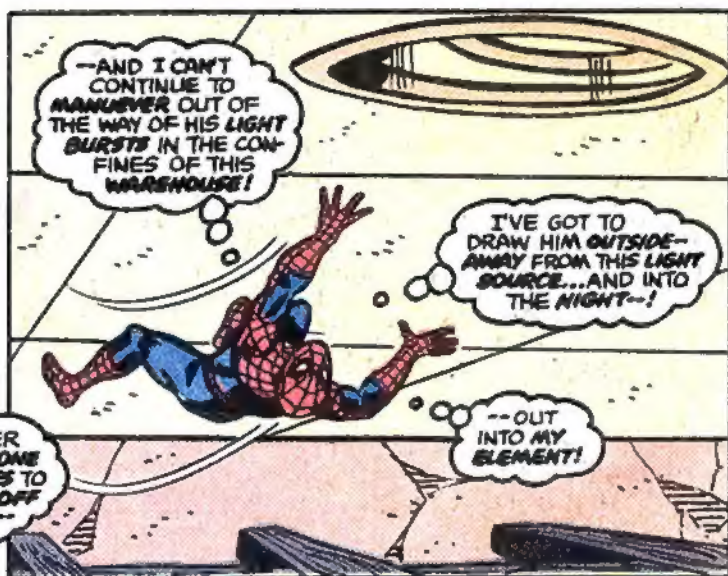


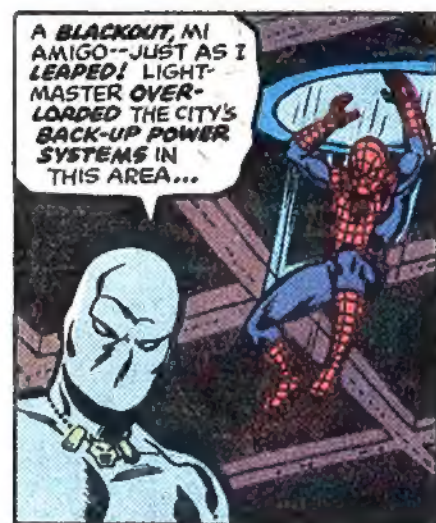
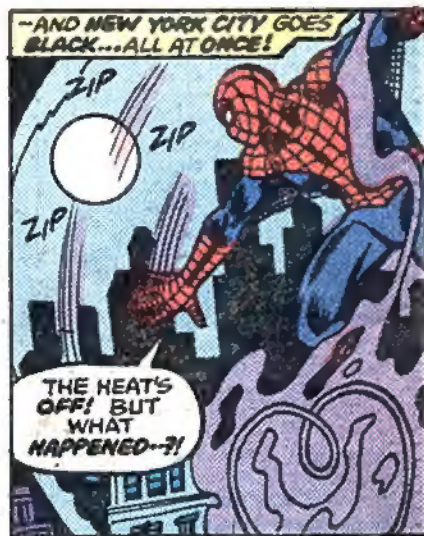
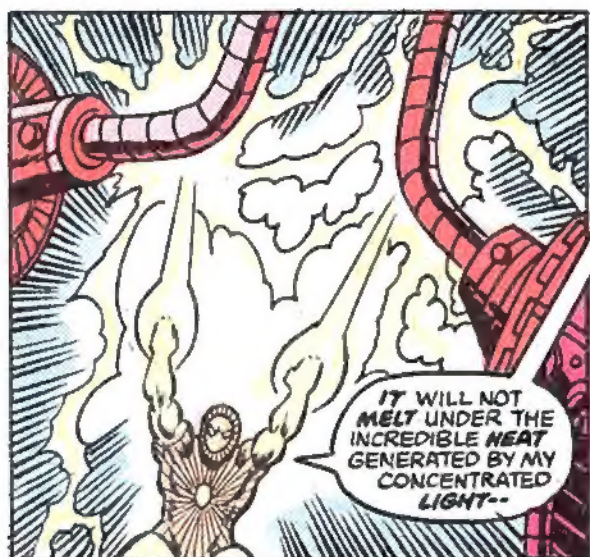
PAUL MCCARTNEY
JOHN LENNON
RINGO STARR
GEORGE HARRISON

AT LAST! PRESENTING THE ULTIMATE ILLUSTRATED BEATLES BOOK-- BROUGHT TO YOU BY DAVE KRAFT, GEORGE PEREZ AND KLAUS JANSON! IT'S A GRAPHIC-ARTS DOCUMENTARY OF THE BEATLES-- FROM THE VERY BEGINNING TO THE FINAL BREAK-UP! 40 PAGES OF MARVEL MAGAZINE MAGIC, PLUS ARTICLES AND NEVER-BEFORE-PUBLISHED COLOR PHOTOS OF THE FAB FOUR!

DON'T MISS MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #4!







NEXT ISSUE: **SCORPION RISING!**